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Second Committee
Agenda item 85 (c)
Sustainable development: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Qatar:* draft resolution

Natural disasters and vulnerability

The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision 57/547 of 20 December 2002 and its resolution 58/215 of 23 December 2003,

Taking into account the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[1] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[2] adopted by the World Summit, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002,

Recognizing the need to continue to develop an understanding of, and to address, socio-economic activities that exacerbate the vulnerability of societies to natural disasters and to build and further strengthen community capacity to cope with disaster risks,

Noting that the global environment continues to suffer degradation, adding to economic and social vulnerabilities, in particular in developing countries,

Taking into account the various ways and forms in which all countries, in particular the more vulnerable countries, are affected by severe natural hazards such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions and extreme weather events such as heat waves, severe droughts, floods and storms, and the El Niño/La Niña events, which have global reach,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[2] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

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Recognizing that the impact of natural disasters upon increasingly vulnerable countries is becoming a significant obstacle to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration,[3] in particular those relating to poverty eradication and environmental sustainability,

Expressing deep concern at the substantial increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events and associated natural disasters and their increasing economic, social and environmental impact, in particular on developing countries, and also expressing concern that this trend is likely to continue in the future,

Taking into account that extreme weather events and associated natural disasters and their reduction must be dealt with in a coherent and effective manner,

Expressing its deep concern at the enormous negative impact of severe natural hazards, including extreme weather events and associated natural disasters, which continues to hinder social and economic progress, in particular in developing countries,

Recognizing that the small island developing States are located in the most vulnerable regions in the world in terms of the intensity and frequency of natural and environmental disasters and their increasing impact, and that they face disproportionately great economic, social and environmental consequences,

Stressing that national authorities need to undertake disaster preparedness and mitigation efforts, in particular through the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, so as to enhance the resilience of populations to disasters and reduce risks to them, their livelihoods, the social and economic infrastructure and environmental resources,

Noting the need for international cooperation to increase the capacity of countries to respond to the negative impacts of all natural hazards, including extreme weather events and associated natural disasters, particularly in developing countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction,[4] in particular the separate section on natural disasters and vulnerability;

2. *Urges* the international community to continue to address ways and means, including through cooperation and technical assistance, to reduce the adverse effects of natural disasters, including those caused by extreme weather events, in particular in vulnerable developing countries, through the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and encourages the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction to continue its work in this regard;

3. *Stresses* the importance of enforcement by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction of the implementation of relevant provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation[1] on natural disasters and vulnerability, as well as the results of the review of the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines

[3] See resolution 55/2.
[4] A/59/228.

for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation[5] and other relevant processes, bearing in mind the vital importance of addressing the adverse effects of natural disasters in the efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals;

4. *Emphasizes* that the World Conference on Disaster Reduction should take concrete steps towards reducing the risk and vulnerabilities of all countries, in particular developing countries, relating to disasters, including through the provision of technical and financial assistance, as well as through the strengthening or establishment of institutional mechanisms, including at the regional level, where appropriate;

5. *Encourages* Governments, in cooperation with the United Nations system and other stakeholders, to strengthen capacity-building in the most vulnerable regions, to enable them to address the socio-economic factors that increase vulnerability, and encourages the international community to provide effective assistance to developing countries in this regard;

6. *Also encourages* the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction to enhance the coordination on the promotion of disaster reduction as well as to make available to the relevant United Nations entities information on options for natural disaster reduction, including severe natural hazards and extreme weather-related disasters and vulnerabilities;

7. *Encourages* the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[6] and the parties to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[7] to continue to address the adverse effects of climate change, especially in those developing countries that are particularly vulnerable, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, and also encourages the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to continue to assess the adverse effects of climate change on the socio-economic and natural disaster reduction systems of developing countries;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the implementation of the present resolution in a separate section of his report on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and decides to consider the issue of natural disasters and vulnerability at that session, under the sub-item "International Strategy for Disaster Reduction" of the item entitled "Sustainable development".

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[5] A/CONF.172/9, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[6] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[7] FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.3, annex.